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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant(s) : Keisuke Kuida et al.  
Application No. : 09/728,173 Confirmation No. : 4567  
Filed : December 1, 2000  
For : CASPASE-9 DEFICIENT ANIMALS AND THE USE THEREOF  
Group Art Unit : 1632  
Examiner : Louis D. Lieto

New York, New York 10020  
February 2, 2005

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

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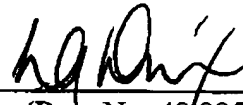
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